



Laboratory & Diagnosis

Official Journal of Iranian Association
of Clinical laboratory Doctors

Vol. 3, No. 14, Supplement Issue

April 2012

CONGRESS ABSTRACTS

The **5th** International and
10th National congress on
Quality Improvement in Clinical Laboratory
April, 23-26, 2012-Tehran, Iran



Iranian Association of
Clinical Laboratory Doctors



National Reference Laboratory



Iranian Association of
Clinical Laboratory Specialists



Antimicrobial resistance pattern of methicillin susceptible (MSSA) and resistant (MRSA) *Staphylococcus aureus* strains isolated from patients admitted to hospitals affiliated to Ardabil University of Medical Sciences

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Background and Aim:

Today treatment of infections caused by MRSA is a major therapeutic challenge. Infections caused by MRSA strains are associated with higher mortality and morbidity. This study was aimed to find the frequency of *Staphylococcus aureus* strains isolated from clinical specimens and evaluate their antimicrobial resistance profile.

Methods:

In this cross-sectional study a total of 41 clinical *Staphylococcus aureus* isolates from different specimens were included. The oxacillin resistance were evaluated using two category of methods: Agar dilution (determination of oxacillin MIC), and PCR (detection of *mecA* gene). Antimicrobial resistance pattern were determined using disk diffusion methods. The results were interpreted according to CLSI.

Results:

The results identified 19 (46.34%) out of 41 *S. aureus* isolates as methicillin resistant. The oxacillin MICs against MRSA were between 64- 512 $\geq \mu\text{g/ml}$ and for MSSA isolates were between ≤ 0.25 -1 $\mu\text{g/ml}$. MRSA isolates were resistant against most antibiotics. The chloramphenicol, imipenem and co-trimoxazole showed to be the most effective antibiotics against MRSA isolates. PCR revealed *mecA* gene in all isolates determined as MRSA in Agar dilution method.

Conclusions:

In this study frequency of MRSA strains was 46.34%. Treatment based on antibiogram test results and rational antibiotics therapy can prevent increase in the number of resistant species.

Keywords: MRSA; Oxacillin MIC; *mecA*, Antimicrobial resistance pattern

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